WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A torque control method for controlling a throttle motor on the basis of a required torque of an engine, comprising:

computing a first required torque on the basis of a depression amount of an
acceleration pedal and an engine speed; and

computing a second required torque by multiplying an output value of a gradient limit function by an output value of a time delay function;

wherein the output value of the gradient limit function is determined on the basis of the first required torque, an acceleration pedal depression amount, an engine speed, and a shift range, and

wherein the output value of the time delay function is determined on the basis of the shift range.

2.   The torque control method of claim 1, wherein the gradient limit function is defined by multiplying:

a basic gradient limit function, of which the output value is determined motor on the basis of the first required torque, the engine speed, and the shift range; and

a weight function, of which the output value is determined motor on the basis of the acceleration pedal depression amount and the shift range.

3.   The torque control method of claim 2, wherein the output value of the weight function is proportional to the acceleration pedal depression amount.

4.   The torque control method of claim 3, wherein the time delay function is defined as a one-dimensional time delay function, and the output value of the time delay function is determined motor on the basis of the shift range.

5.   The torque control method of claim 4, wherein the output value of the time delay function is proportional to the shift range.

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6.   The torque control method of claim 2, wherein the output value of the basic gradient limit function and the output value of the weight function are determined from a plurality of predetermined look-up tables.

5   7.   The torque control method of claim 4, wherein the output value of the time delay function is determined from a plurality of predetermined look-up tables.